

At approximately 0715 hours local time on 17 February, Embassy Manama received confirmation that Bahrain Defense Forces entered Manama with Armor (tanks) and assumed control of the area around the Pearl Roundabout from the Ministry Of Interior.

Embassy Manama is advising all American citizens to limit your movements and avoid Manama. There are confirmed multiple reports of violent clashes between protestors and security forces in various parts of the city. Spontaneous demonstrations and violence is expected throughout the next several days.

The Embassy Consular Section will remain available for emergency services only.

We remind American citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. American citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations. American citizens should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Country Specific Information for Bahrain, Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy in Manama can be reached at (973) 1724-2700; the afterhours emergency number is (973) 1724-2957; the fax number is (973) 1725-6242. The Embassy's web site, which includes consular information and the most recent messages to the American community in Bahrain, is at <http://bahrain.usembassy.gov>. The Consular Section can be reached at ManamaConsular@state.gov